

THE
Thurrock Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
and the Public Analyst

For the Year 1968

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1968)

Chairman: A. H. J. D. SIDDONS, C.C.

Leading Councillor: Mrs. M. G. MAHONY, C.C.

Councillors: A. A. W. BENNETT

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M. D. CROZIER

V. CUNLIFFE, S.R.N., M.R.I.P.H.H.

D. DESMEDT, A.M.B.I.M., A.M.I.W.M.

B. R. EDWARDS, B.SC.

T. PRICE

J. PURDIE

J. W. TAYLOR

V. L. YEATES

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

T. D. BLOTT, B.SC., M.B., B.S.(DUR.), D.P.H., Barrister at Law.
 The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer for the
 Thurrock Division of the County of Essex

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

G. P. MERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. A. GOSLING, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Senior District Public Health Inspector:

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Public Health Inspectors :

T. B. NUTTALL, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

A. G. BRIMBLE (1, 2)

J. L. MCGARRY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2) (Retired Nov. 1968)

L. H. ASH (1, 2)

G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

J. FOSTER (1, 2, 3)

M. H. YOUNG (1, 2, 3)

J. W. MALTON (4) (Appointed July, 1968)

E. PHILBIN (1, 2) (Appointed December, 1968)

(1) Indicates Certificates: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.

(2) Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

(3) Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.

(4) Diploma: Public Health Inspectors' Education Board.

Public Analyst :

THOS. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Veterinary Officers (Part-time)

E. DIXON, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

M. A. CLARK, M.R.C.V.S. (Retired April, 1968)

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :

Mrs. D. SAYERS (Retired June, 1968)

Mrs. P. M. HARLEY (Appointed August, 1968)

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

S. V. EDWARDS

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :

R. ALBON, T. LEVER

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

R. PARTRIDGE, Mrs. E. BROWNE, Mrs. E. CLAYDEN,

Mrs. H. M. WARD, Mrs. L. SPINDLEY

Rodent Officer: M. KNIGHT*Rodent Operatives:* D. BAINES (Retired Nov. 1968), A. G. HARRIS,

R. WAGSTAFF (Appointed December, 1968)

Mortuary Attendants: E. C. WHITBREAD, R. W. LENNIE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, my fourth Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year, 1968.

During the year the total number of deaths from all causes was 973. Of these only 57 were under 25 years of age. In this small group, 11 of these were school children killed in motor accidents. This stresses the importance for a vigorous road safety campaign. Another 33 children died in the early weeks of life from causes associated with birth. This group also requires close attention with a view to lowering these figures in the future.

It will be seen that deaths due to cancer of the breast were 17, all of whom were over the age of 35 and there were 5 deaths due to cancer of the womb, all of whom were over the age of 45. During this period cervical cytology screening was carried out on 1377 women plus a further 378 re-tests. There is, I think, room for considerable health education on these two matters since apathy and a lack of awareness of what can be done by early diagnosis prevents this service being fully used by the women of Thurrock and, here again, is a group of deaths, many of which are preventable.

During the year, developments in the building of Orsett Hospital has led to the closing of the local hospital at Tilbury. Whilst its closing evokes some feelings of nostalgia, one cannot deny the better facilities available in a modern hospital. It is to be hoped,

however, that ways will be found to retain the Special Clinic in the vicinity of Tilbury Docks.

The number of live births is 2094, the illegitimate birth rate being 6.59, which compares with 5.92 for the previous year. This means that 137 children may have to face life without the support of two parents. In many cases the mothers would prefer to keep their children with them rather than part with them for adoption. I think the time has come when these unsupported mothers should be given some form of support in the way of housing to enable them to establish a home for their children. It has been estimated that a quarter of all illegitimate children do, in fact, remain with their parents and if this is so then there are a number of families in Thurrock who would require some help each year. Much help is given to this group by the National Association for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child who are, in fact well able to provide advice from their great experience but unhappily are very short of finance. I hope the people of Thurrock will consider supporting this Association as one of the measures to help these unsupported families.

During the year there have been a number of cases of jaundice amongst teenagers and it has become apparent that in many cases infection has been spread by the use of dirty syringes by drug takers. Drug takers require not only help to overcome their disability but, in addition, adequate hygiene instruction and a way will have to be found of educating those who are determined to follow this course of action to see that their health does not have to undertake the additional burden of unnecessary infection.

The re-housing of cases on health grounds has made good progress during the year and this must in the long run pay good dividends in community health. Unfortunately, the stresses of modern life seem to be producing an ever-growing group of emotional problems and much thought will have to be given to the best use of our resources in order to provide mental as well as physical health for the people of the area.

The figures for notification of infectious diseases are not strictly comparable with those of the previous year as the regulations involving these were changed last year and became operative on 1st October.

I should like to thank my Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee for their support and your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. A. Gosling, whom I shall miss greatly when he retires next year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

T. D. BLOTT, *Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Department, 34 Cresthill Avenue, Grays, Essex.
Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1968)	123,230
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.68)	36,430
Rateable Value (at 31.3.68)	£7,850,592
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.68)	£32,022

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms, although the number of dairy farms seems to be diminishing as the years go on.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Thurrock Urban District	England and Wales
Live Births:		
Number—(1,107 Males, 987 Females) ...	2,094	822,000
Rate per 1,000 estimated	Crude ... 16.99	—
Mid-Year Home Population	(Adjusted) ... 16.82	16.9
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total Live Births	6.59	

Stillbirths:		Thurrock Urban District	England and Wales
Number—(15 Males, 13 Females) ...	...	28	12,000
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...	...	13.2	14.0
Total live and stillbirths ...	...	2,122	834,000

DEATHS

Total Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):

Number—(18 Males, 11 Females) ... 29 15,000

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 13.85 18.0

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate
Live Births ... 12.77 —

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti-
mate Live Birth ... 29.2 —

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four
weeks) (14 Males, 6 Females) per 1,000
total Live Births ... 9.55 12.3

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under
one week) (13 Males, 6 Females) per 1,000
total Live Births ... 9.07 —

Perinatal mortality rate (still births and
deaths under one week combined) per
1,000 total live and stillbirths ... 22.15 25.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths ... Nil —

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ... — —

All Causes:

Number—(545 Males, 428 Females) ... 973 577,000

Death rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude) 7.82 —

Mid-Year Home population } (Adjusted) 11.26 11.9

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department have been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

Ambulance Vehicles	...	...	...	1
Sitting Case Vehicles	...	...	...	3
Dual Purpose Vehicles	...	...	...	5
Total cases conveyed	...	...	...	44,995
Stretchers cases	...	...	3,125	
Other cases	...	...	41,870	
Total Mileage	...	...	...	267,789
Total emergency cases	...	...	...	2,901

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. Such articles include bedrests, bedpans, bed cradles, commodes, mattresses, wheelchairs in and out-door type,

air cushions, air rings, walking aids, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick does not include specialised equipment for the permanently disabled.

HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board.

There is a large modern hospital at Orsett and, in addition, a hospital at Thurrock, specialising largely with diseases of the chest and tuberculosis.

The Special Clinic continues to operate in the curtilage of the now closed Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital.

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority made an annual grant of £650 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. K. Smith, Centre Organiser, for the following information.

Grays Area: —

No. of meals distributed ...	6,968
Approximate mileage ...	3,800

Stanford-le-Hope Area: —

No. of meals distributed ...	5,928
Approximate mileage ...	3,075

Aveley Area: —

No. of meals distributed ...	4,160
Approximate mileage ...	1,795

Meals are delivered in Grays, Aveley and Stanford-le-Hope two days per week.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

CLINIC PREMISES.

On the following pages will be found a list of the clinics serving Thurrock which includes the one Health Centre which was built in the year 1955.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Ante-natal Clinic sessions were held during 1968 in six of the premises. The Midwives sessions are held mainly for booking patients for home confinements.

CHILD HEALTH

There are 14 Centres in Thurrock where Child Health Sessions are held at which mothers attend to discuss their problems with the Health Visitors and Medical Officers.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS, MEDICAMENTS & NUTRIENTS.

The Ministry welfare foods and proprietary brands of medicaments and nutrients were distributed at the Child Health Sessions and, in addition, so far as the Ministry of Food items are concerned, voluntary distributors continue to provide this service for mothers in areas not easily accessible to the Child Health Clinics.

DAY NURSERIES.

The two Day Nurseries in the Area, one at Palmer's Avenue in Grays and the other in London Road, West Thurrock, each catering for 30 places, continue to accept children mainly in the priority groups mentioned below:—

Priority (1)—Children of sole wage-earners—i.e., widow, widower, a parent separated, divorced or deserted, unmarried mother, mother working on account of father's chronic illness.

Priority (2)—Admissions recommended by Area Medical Officers for medical reasons, including cases arising from socio-economic circumstances irrespective of whether the mothers are in employment.

Priority (3)—Children of mothers in employment highly essential to communal services, subject in each case to the approval of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Health Area Sub-Committee.

The total attendances are given below with the attendances for previous years in brackets. The Nurseries were open for 255 days in the year.

	1965	1966	1967	1968
March Quarter	(3396)	(3162)	(3506)	3530
June Quarter	(3203)	(3635)	(3745)	3167
September Quarter	(3369)	(3659)	(3502)	3107
December Quarter	(3778)	(3659)	(3447)	2944
Total	(13746)	(13871)	(14200)	12747

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

Due to some Midwives leaving and the appointment of new applicants, approximately 18 Domiciliary Midwives were employed during 1968.

During the year, Domiciliary Midwives attended 847 Births and a total of 525 mothers were discharged early from Hospital before the 10th day. The total of Domiciliary Births does not include the number of cases booked and ante-natalled at home who had, for obstetric reasons, to terminate in Hospital and cases actually booked for home confinement exceeded 1,000 during this year.

A grand total of 19,838 Ante-Natal and Post-Natal visits were made by the Midwives during 1968. This total does not include Deliveries or attendances at Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics by the Midwives. A grand total of 54,141 Nursing visits to 'sick patients' were made by the Home Nursing Staff.

TRAINING OF PUPIL/MIDWIVES.

23 Pupil Midwives have so far completed their training in this District and a further 3 Pupil Midwives commenced their District Training as from 1st December, 1968.

DELEGATION SCHEME FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES AND HOME NURSES TO GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER GROUP PRACTICES.

The delegation scheme continues to offer a satisfactory service to the public and appears to be much appreciated by both patients and doctors and also by the staff concerned.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948.

The number of persons and premises registered under the Act at the end of 1968 was as follows:

No. of persons registered 9

No. of premises registered 21

At the end of the year there were 605 children being cared for. As previously, Health Visitors have been asked to inspect the premises and to explain and discuss the standard required. The Chief Fire Officer has assisted in making an inspection to ascertain the need for fire precautions. Those in charge of the Nurseries and indeed the Child Minders generally were required to undergo a chest x-ray examination before a certificate of registration could be issued. Regular visits are made by the Health Visitors to the registered premises. There is no Daily Guardian Scheme in operation in the area. Most of the Daily Minders have now completed courses held by the Thurrock Technical College on the needs of the pre-school child.

The Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948, was amended on 1st November, 1968, by Section 60 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968, which extended the scope of the 1948 Act and strengthened local health authorities' powers but this has meant additional demands on the time and services of the Superintendent Health Visitor and her staff.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

1,325 schoolchildren received B.C.G. vaccination during the year.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER CARE

RECUPERATIVE HOLIDAYS.

36 persons went away on recuperative holidays where either general practitioners and/or hospital consultants so recommended.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGICAL SMEAR TESTS.

During 1968, 111 sessions were held at Health Services Clinics in Thurrock for the taking of Cervical Cytological smears. 1,377 first tests and 378 repeat tests were carried out of which only 1 was found to be positive. At the end of 1968 there was a waiting list of approximately 140.

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

Arrangements whereby patients suffering from chest complaints can receive a pint of milk per day, without charge, on the recommendation of the Chest Physician continued during the year there being 69 people receiving free milk at the end of 1968, 29 new cases having been recommended during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS VISITING.

The Tuberculosis Visitors made 230 visits during the year and there were also 409 first examinations of contacts and 698 subsequent examinations of contacts.

CHIROPODY.

The treatment given at our clinics continues to be limited in scope by the shortage of qualified staff, at the end of the year there being only 1.4 Chiropodists engaged out of an establishment of 3. However, it was still possible to include the Welfare Department premises in the programme of visits at Bennett Lodge and Leatherland Lodge where the full-time Chiropodist was able to attend sessionally monthly. Treatments carried out during the year were 3,502 at clinics, 2,177 domiciliary and 365 at Welfare Homes.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Education in health matters has been practised informally by the Thurrock Health Visitors in their day to day work in the homes, clinics and schools. On a more formal basis displays on health subjects have been put on at the purpose built clinics and the Aveley Health Centre and over 100 films have been shown throughout the area. Talks and lectures have been given at Orsett, Tilbury, Billericay and Harold Wood Hospitals, Thurrock Technical College, Schools, Mothers' Clubs, Women's Associations, Old Aged Pensioners' Clubs and various Youth Clubs. One Health Visitor has prepared students for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Classes on education for childbirth have been held throughout the area and where the premises have been suitable "Fathers' Classes" have been included.

An "over 40" exercise course is in operation at Grays North Clinic.

In addition to arranging public health practical experience for student nurses and student Health Visitors, the Health Visitors have catered for the needs in this field of students from many other disciplines.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The total number of cases provided with help during the year was 1,296 and the total number of hours worked by the whole-time equivalent of 76 helps was 170,819.

There was a considerable diminution of hours of help during 1968 owing to financial stringency, but where help was needed in the homes this was given and as far as is known no undue hardship ensued.

SCHOOL POPULATION.

The school population for Thurrock including Special Schools at the end of the year was 20,523.

SPEECH THERAPY.

The position with regard to Speech Therapy in the Division remains acute. The only time given to treatment is two sessions per week, the third session being devoted to school visits or clerical work relating to case histories. The long waiting list increases.

THURROCK HEALTH AREA

CLINICS

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Aveley	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinics Women's Welfare Mothercraft & Relaxation
	The Health Centre, Darenth Lane. South Ockendon	Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinics Women's Welfare

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Bulphan	Village Hall, Bulphan	Child Health Chiropody
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinic
Corringham	Memorial Hall, Corringham	Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation
East Tilbury	"Rheidovale," Princess Margaret Rd. East Tilbury	Child Health Midwives' Booking Sessions
Fobbing	Gardner Hall	Child Health
Grays	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Midwives' Ante-natal Mothercraft & Relaxation Women's Welfare School Clinic
	Health Services Clinic, Long Lane, Grays	Ante-natal Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation Post-natal Exercise Classes School Clinic Speech Therapy
	Glasson House Clinic, Off High Street, Grays	Chiropody Dental Ophthalmology

District	Clinic	Type of Sessions Held
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination School Clinic
Linford	Village Hall, Linford	Post-natal Exercise Classes
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Health Services Clinic, London Road, West Thurrock	Ante-natal Child Health Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinic
South Ockendon	Health Services Clinic, 107 South Road, South Ockendon	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinic
Stanford-le-Hope	Health Services Clinic, Wharf Road, Stanford-le-Hope	Ante-natal Child Health Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Cervical Cytology Mothers' Club Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinic
Tilbury	Health Services Clinic, London Road, Tilbury	Ante-natal Cervical Cytology Child Health Chiropody Dental Immunisation and Vaccination Mothercraft & Relaxation School Clinic

HOUSING.

The Council have 11,095 Council Houses and in addition the former London County Council, East Ham Borough Council and West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 4,007 upon the waiting list for houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 118 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF MANUAL STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the London Borough of Havering. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 2,375 persons were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and an Assistant Medical Officer of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district acts as Boarding Officer.

PUBLIC MORTUARY SERVICE.

209 deaths were reported to H.M. Coroner, Dr. Charles Clark. The total number of inquests held was 37 after a post-mortem in each case. There were 15 road accidents, 12 industrial accidents, 10 other causes.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE		Notified	Confirmed	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	55	55	—	—
Dysentery	...	27	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute and Influenzal)	...	29	29	—	58*
Infective Hepatitis	...	62	62	3	—
Whooping Cough	...	45	45	—	—
Measles	...	281	281	1	—
Erysipelas	...	6	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	94	2	1	—
Encephalitis	...	1	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion	...	4	4	4	—

* This includes Pneumonias of all types, taken from the Registrar-General's return.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO
AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	14	29	9	1	1	55
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	4	7	29	22	62
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	3	2	2	2	4	14	27
Pneumonia ...	3	3	—	7	3	2	11	29
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Whooping Cough ...	3	8	19	13	1	1	—	45
Measles ...	11	95	87	80	4	3	1	281
Food Poisoning ...	1	14	6	10	2	13	48	94
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	4
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

FOOD POISONING, &c.

The number of cases of Food Poisoning notified shows a decrease for the year 1968, and the number of cases of Dysentery is more than doubled. These were not confined to any one age group or to any particular part of the district but in two instances involved more than one member of the family. It must be remembered that most cases are notified as Suspected Food Poisoning and in most instances the diagnosis is not confirmed on bacteriological investigation. No outbreaks were reported.

It is the practice to take faecal specimens from each notified case of food poisoning or dysentery in which food handlers are involved (whether as patients or contacts) and if a positive result is obtained, three negative specimens are required before he or she is permitted to resume work. Such specimens are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff-on-Sea.

During the year 21 persons were excluded from work and in one case compensation for loss of earnings was made.

The following table shows the number of faecal specimens or throat swabs submitted by the department during the year.

Taken From	Total	Negative	Positive			
			Staph. Aureus	Shig. Sonnei	Sal. Typhi- murium	Sal. Bran- denburgh
Food Handlers	26	24	2	—	—	—
Non-Food Handlers	20	19	—	—	—	1

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH (Cont.)

CAUSES OF DEATH	SEX	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 Year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
14. Anaemias	...	M 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15. Meningitis	...	F 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	...	M 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
16. Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	...	F —	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
17. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	M 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
	...	F 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18. Hypertensive Disease	...	M 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
	...	F 8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	3
	...	M 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2
	...	F 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	8
19. Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	M 138	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	30	48	38	38
	...	F 102	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	8	37	52	52
20. Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	M 22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	16	16
	...	F 31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	24	24
21. Cerebrovascular Disease	...	M 61	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	11	21	25	25
	...	F 52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	31	31
22. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	M 31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	5	16
	...	F 26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	17	17
23. Influenza	...	M 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
	...	F 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
24. Pneumonia	...	M 28	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	16
	...	F 30	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	20
25. Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	M 41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	24	11
	...	F 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
26. Asthma	...	M 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	...	F 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

27. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	6	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1
28. Peptic Ulcer	F	4	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
29. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
30. Cirrhosis of Liver	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
32. Hyperplasia of Prostate	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
33. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
34. Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35. Congenital Anomalies	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
36. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
37. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	F	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38. Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	M	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
39. Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40. All Other Accidents	M	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—All Causes	M	545	14	4	4	7	10	8	17	52	95	174	160			
	F	428	6	5	3	2	2	2	10	31	55	99	213			

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-4 yrs.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-9 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-44 „	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
45-54 „	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-64 „	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-74 „	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	15	10	3	2	—	1	—	—

**Report of the
Chief Public Health Inspector**

SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	31
(b) From Wells, etc.	...	...	...	13

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	3
(b) From Wells	...	...	...	Nil

All samples from the public mains were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

Five bacteriological samples from wells showed a high general count with coliforms and faecal coli.

These involved two houses both of which are situated a considerable distance from a public main. In the one case the Council were willing to contribute towards the cost of extending the main so as to supply these premises but an application to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for a grant towards this provision was refused. In the second case, the tenant is considering the installation of a chlorination plant.

A number of properties in Horndon-on-the-Hill are served by a private main which has not always proved satisfactory. A grant has been authorised towards the cost of extending the public main and the South Essex Waterworks Company have been asked to carry out this work.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	...	...	36,406
Estimated population served	...	...	121,588
No. of houses supplied from public water mains supplied by standpipes	...	...	20
Estimated population served	...	...	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored rainwater	...	...	4
Estimated population served	...	...	12

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The four remaining houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is prohibitive. In addition there are two wells at one of the oil refineries, the water from which is used for drinking and domestic purposes.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	29.82 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	127
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (Sept. 14th, 1968)	7.25 ins.
No. of hours of sunshine	1,084

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There have been no significant extension to the sewerage system during the year and the only alteration is the improvement of the Purfleet Trunk Sewer which is, at present, in progress.

The Orsett Sewerage Scheme has received approval in principle from the Minister with respect to the Orsett Village part only. Efforts are being made to obtain approval for the sewerage of Orsett Heath since this area contains a large number of cesspools and pail closets.

The Little Thurrock Surface Water Sewerage Scheme is to be submitted in the very near future and preparatory work is proceeding on the Stanford-le-Hope Sewerage Works Extension and Improvement, with a view to the work being commenced during 1969.

The heavy rains of the 14th and 15th September served as an unfortunate reminder of the deficiencies of the sewerage system in certain parts of the area. No surface water system could be expected to deal adequately with the amount of rain which fell during this period and widespread flooding occurred—particularly in Tilbury. In addition, surcharging of sewers was evident in many parts of the area. Fortunately these incidents, although extremely unpleasant for those affected, did not give rise to public health problems in the sense of infectious disease. Many samples of water were taken from the affected areas but these all proved bacteriologically satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 790 cesspools and 380 pail closets in the area at the close of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by the Public Cleansing Department and there has been no change during the year in the arrangements for refuse collection. However, the new Greater London Council Estate at South Ockendon is designed for paper sack collection and this will be used during the coming year as a pilot scheme with a view to extending this type of refuse storage to the whole of the Urban District.

The present policy of the Council is to empty household dustbins weekly and such refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on two sites at South Ockendon and Linford.

The Municipal Bin Scheme has worked satisfactorily during the year and it is of interest to note that the Council have sited bulk containers at strategic points throughout the district for the benefit of the population at large. This scheme has been highly successful and has had a marked effect upon the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish.

Pail Closets are emptied weekly and no criticism has been made of this service.

The situation regarding cesspool emptying seems to have improved in the sense that fewer complaints have been received—at any rate by the Health Department. In the light of experience, amendments to the original emptying rota have been undertaken and it is to be hoped that this service will proceed more smoothly than during the initial stages of the revised scheme.

There is still the problem of the cesspool which becomes full within a fortnight of emptying. This can be dealt with either by the construction of a new cesspool—a costly procedure which some (particularly owner-occupiers) cannot afford or by the Council entering into a contract whereby additional regular emptyings are carried out on payment.

REFUSE TIPS.

On 1st April, 1968, the Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches, etc.) Act, 1967, came into force and requires that the operation or formation of a refuse tip shall receive the consent of the Essex County Council and the local authority both of whom may impose such conditions as they think fit, subject to a right of appeal to the Minister.

Seven refuse tips were in operation at the close of the year—South Ockendon (2), Aveley (1), Linford (1), West Thurrock (1),

East Tilbury (1) and Mucking (1). Further tips are contemplated at Aveley and South Ockendon.

The refuse tip at Little Belhus was closed down in March and the tipping rights have been acquired by another firm who have not yet put the site to any use.

The Minister confirmed—with modification—the Order made by the Council modifying the original planning conditions and the tipping of liquid wastes is now forbidden.

The condition of this site is as unsatisfactory as ever. Large areas of polluted water are in evidence and it was only by regular treatment with sodium dichromate or sodium nitrate that public nuisance was prevented.

The solution to this “festering sore” lies in the speedy filling of the polluted water filled pits—even if this gives rise to a short-term nuisance. Discussions are taking place between the site operators and the Greater London Council with a view to receiving large quantities of London household refuse on this tip. This scheme will commence in February, 1969.

On the subject of refuse tips in general, the views I expressed last year remain unchanged and I regret that the number in this area seems to be increasing. Thurrock contains many disused gravel, chalk and clay pits and the view is frequently expressed that these should be filled in. I do not share the opinion that filling should take place in every case. Some of these sites are attractive and can be used for boating or fishing. Furthermore, they are well patronised by wild life. To fill these pits regardless of existing conditions can involve the destruction of amenities which are all too few in the area. At the present rate, Thurrock is in danger of becoming a refuse dump for London and the surrounding areas.

Experience has taught me that no pit (especially if wet) within about a mile from residential property can be used for the depositing of household or industrial refuse without giving rise to a nuisance at some time or other.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are within the area, ten swimming baths as follows:—

Public	....	....	....	....	...	1
Private	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	7

The public bath at Blackshots Playing Field, which was opened in 1964, continues to prove a popular addition to the facilities in the area.

Its capacity is 220,000 gallons, with a four-hourly turnover.

The bath is 110 ft. x 42 ft. and slopes from 3 ft. to 12 ft. 6 ins.

The cycle of operations is prechlorination, treatment with soda ash and alumina, pressure filtration, final chlorination followed by heating to 78°F and aeration.

A Teaching Pool is under construction adjoining the present bath and should be in operation during 1969.

The two private baths are situated upon premises of large industrial undertakings. They are of the open-air type and are provided with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units.

Of the seven school baths, three are of the "indoor" type with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units. The remaining are "outdoor" baths open only during the summer and are mainly for tuition purposes—the cost of which was met largely by voluntary subscription. Although these are fitted with circulatory and chlorination units, they are of more elementary design and close supervision is necessary if a satisfactory water is to be maintained.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 55, all of which were satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house in the area—situated at the junction of High Street and West Street, Grays—and this provides accommodation for 21 persons.

The premises are old, poorly constructed and with minimum facilities. They come within the area of Grays South Redevelopment Scheme concerning which a Compulsory Purchase Order will shortly be submitted.

Regular visits are necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations and during the year 5 such visits were made.

AIR POLLUTION.

An increasing number of large industrial plants are situated along the river front and it is remarkable how few are the number of occasions when smoke is emitted in such quantities as to contravene the regulations. Emissions involving complaint usually involve a wood and sawdust burning installation or one or other of the plants under the control of the Alkali, etc., Inspector. This latter is to be expected since the reason for their being under special control is due to the nature of the processes involved which give rise to difficulties in preventing emissions to atmosphere.

It is the usual practice for furnaces, these days, to be oil fired, and of the 102 new furnaces notified over the past six years, 97 have been oil fired, two gas fired, one coal fired and two special types of furnaces for burning sawdust and wood shavings.

So far as pollution from sources other than industrial furnaces are concerned, special mention must be made of two of the sources

detailed in last year's report since the problems have not yet been resolved.

- (1) An unpleasant smell from a factory making lightweight concrete blocks in West Thurrock. Public agitation on this subject was intense and a meeting was held between Ward members of the Council and representatives of the firm concerned. It is now thought that a solution to this problem has been reached which involves treatment of the condensate with lime and a manganese catalyst which will produce an effluent suitable for discharge into the Council's sewer.

Some delay regarding the delivery date of the plant has taken place but an assurance has been received that installation and operation will be ready by May, 1969.

- (2) The smell of crude naphtha from a railway siding in Grays at which rail tankers are filled for conveyance to a gas making plant. Activated carbon was used through which the air displaced from the rail cars was passed during filling and before discharge to atmosphere but this has not entirely solved the problem. A barrier spray of deodorant has now been provided, but my experience with deodorants indicates that complete success is unlikely and I have reached the conclusion that the only permanent solution lies in the removal of the installation to a more suitable site—a situation which is not likely to come about.

In addition, a reference should be made to complaints regarding an offensive smell from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Marsh Farm, West Tilbury. This occurred, particularly when the wind was from the south east and arose from sludge drying or sludge removal. The Council have arranged for the installation of a deodorant barrier spray to be operated at the times when conditions are most likely to give rise to complaint.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector who works very closely with the officers of the Council.

Cement Production	....	....	....	....	4
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)					1
Oil Refining, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Electricity Production		...	...	...	3
Nitric Acid Production		...	...	...	2
Recovery of non-ferrous Metals		...	...		1
Ammonia	...	...	...	...	2
Chemical Manure	...	...	...	...	1
Acid Sludge	...	...	...	...	1

Neither of the nitric acid plants have given rise to complaint--indeed both are equipped with the most modern catalytic devices for the reduction of fume. It is thought that one of the plants will be closed down in the not too distant future.

Of the three electricity generating stations, two are coal-fired and one oil-fired. No complaints have been received during the year. One of the stations (Tilbury "B") is in course of construction and is not yet fully operational.

So far as the Oil Refineries are concerned, a small number of complaints were received from the eastern end of the district regarding smells when the wind was from the east or south-east. Unfortunately these complaints were made after the event and this makes it impossible to pin-point the origin or identify the smell. When events of this nature arise it is essential that the Department and the Refineries be notified immediately in order that a thorough investigation can be made. Experience has shown that the firms concerned are very much aware of the nuisance potential and will undertake an investigation at any time of the day or night.

It is necessary, as in previous years, to mention the problem of cement dust, which continues to be the principal source of air pollution in Thurrock.

A second visit by Lord Kennet took place during the early part of the year and arising out of this, it was suggested that regular meetings (say annually) should take place between the Cement Companies and representatives of the Council.

The first of these took place early in January, 1969, when a new precipitator on one of the larger kilns came into operation. The standard for all new precipitators has recently been raised by the Alkali Inspectorate from 0.2 grains of dust per cubic foot of kiln gases at S.T.P. to 0.1 grains and the new precipitator undoubtedly measures up to this.

I am certain that if all precipitators on Thameside were capable of complying with this standard, a dramatic reduction in the amount of dust would be observed.

This is a long term effect but on the short term basis it seems to me that with the completion of the new very large works on the south side of the river coupled with the closure of some of the older works, a material improvement will be effected.

The Council have continued to be represented on the Thameside Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution which meets four times yearly.

INSTALLATION OF FURNACES AND CHIMNEYS.

(1) No. of notifications of construction of new furnaces ...	13
(a) Coal Fired	Nil
(b) Oil Fired	12
(c) Gas Fired	1

(2) No. of applications for Prior Approval	...	...	7
No. Granted	...	...	7

SMOKE CONTROL.

A steady progress is being maintained in the smoke control programme. A sixth Order was confirmed by the Minister in November of this year and the date of operation is 1st July, 1969.

Particulars of areas under smoke control are as follows:—

Area	...	...	...	...	5,636 acres
No. of Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	11,765
No. of Shops	...	...	...	...	131
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	20
No. of Industrial Premises	...	...	...	...	19
No. of Miscellaneous Premises	...	...	...	...	31

32.3% of the dwelling houses in Thurrock are now under Smoke Control Orders.

It is intended to begin smoke control in Tilbury during 1969. The original intention was to treat the whole of the area as one unit but there are a large number of older Council houses with firegrates which will require conversion and it will be necessary to divide the area into three parts. This will put back the overall smoke control programme by two years.

In the five years since 1964 the amount of smoke measured by the apparatus established for this purpose in the district has shown a steady decrease in general. This decrease is evident not only in areas which have been brought under smoke control but in areas throughout the district. The assumption would appear to be that the public are being converted to the use of smokeless fuel.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1968.

This legislation was enacted in October and most of its sections come into operation in April, 1969. A long awaited provision is the prohibition of the sale by retail of non-authorised fuels for delivery in a smoke control area. It is also an offence to acquire non-authorised fuels for use in such an area.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

Three deposit gauges are maintained by the Council and the monthly results are forwarded to the Thameside Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution.

The readings from these gauges for the year are as follows:—

Month 1968	Tons per square mile					
	Drums Site		Kennington's School Site		Ward Avenue Site	
	Total Solids	Cement	Total Solids	Cement	Total Solids	Cement
January	35.74	—	19.23	—	37.49	—
February	30.85	—	18.16	—	21.58	—
March	26.94	—	17.74	—	23.48	—
April	30.70	—	29.75	—	24.65	—
May	22.34	—	11.36	—	27.60	—
June	30.80	—	13.64	—	28.26	—
July	26.00	—	18.09	—	34.62	—
August	22.83	—	13.20	—	31.32	—
September	No results—gauges flooded					
October	31.88	18.3	15.92	10.16	29.72	22.69
November	21.01	8.23	17.7	10.55	21.53	9.28
December	28.88	9.43	27.49	16.75	17.45	7.17
Average 1968	27.99	11.98	18.48	12.82	27.06	13.04
Average 1967	31.5	—	21.3	—	32.4	—
Average 1966	31.49	—	18.65	—	28.96	—
Average 1965	36.64	—	19.04	—	30.87	—
Average 1964	31.93	—	18.74	—	29.15	—

These results include not only cement dust, but dust, grit and gritty particles from all sources and is the lowest since 1963.

The Council have resolved to provide a fourth deposit gauge which has been sited at the West Thurrock Day Nursery. It will come into operation on 1st February, 1969.

Four combined Smoke/Volumetric instruments for the daily reading of smoke and sulphur dioxide are in operation. These are situated in Grays, West Thurrock, Stanford-le-Hope and South Ockendon.

The readings from these instruments were as follows:—

Mth.	GRAYS			BELHUS			STANFORD-LE-HOPE			WEST THURROCK		
	Micrograms/cu.M./Air			Micrograms/cu.M./Air			Micrograms/cu.M./Air			Micrograms/cu.M./Air		
	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂
1968												
Jan.	103	180	0.57	75	163	0.46	65	175	0.37	81	201	0.40
Feb.	82	117	0.69	59	118	0.50	55	111	0.49	78	98	0.80
Mar.	68	111	0.61	39	95	0.41	31	87	0.36	52	130	0.40
April	56	102	0.55	32	86	0.37	37	78	0.47	51	68	0.75
May	40	80	0.50	23	50	0.46	22	54	0.40	38	69	0.55
June	30	91	0.33	13	64	0.21	15	75	0.20	24	50	0.48
July	34	73.2	0.47	9.8	41.8	0.24	14	59	0.25	21.2	45.2	0.47
Aug.	29	48.7	0.59	13.2	28.2	0.47	14	59	0.25	19	34.8	0.55
Sept.	61.2	82.8	0.74	26.5	42.3	0.63	23.2	79	0.19	77.6	74.8	1.04
Oct.	54	85	0.64	33.5	62.1	0.54	33.8	98.8	0.34	58.6	106.7	0.55
Nov.	73	87.7	0.82	46.3	68.8	0.67	56.2	99.0	0.57	59.8	104.4	0.57
Dec.	21.6	123.5	0.18	56	84.2	0.18	61	93.2	0.15	*—	—	—
Ave.:												
1968	58.7	98.5	0.59	35.5	75.3	0.47	35.6	89.0	0.40	50.9	89.3	0.57
1967	78	125	0.62	44	98	0.45	50	92	0.54	68	102	0.67
1966	65	109	0.60	43	91	0.47	50	92	0.54	69	87	0.79
1965	87	121	0.72	58	113	0.51	61	105	0.58	80	107	0.75
1964	103	131	0.78	69	124	0.56	80	123	0.62	126	164	0.77
1963	105	117	0.90	65	115	0.56	—	—	—	—	—	—

* This machine was out of order for the month of December due to re-wiring of electrical circuit

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

In addition to the treatment of verminous premises (detailed elsewhere in this report) the Council assists occupiers of premises in the eradication of other pests, e.g. earwigs, ants and wasps, either by the sale of suitable insecticides or by disinfestation, for which a charge is made, the latter procedure being used in the case of wasps nests. The department would prefer not to carry out work of this nature as no public health problem is involved, but it is appreciated that wasps nests are sometimes difficult to destroy and the use of special apparatus is often necessary. During the year under review 10 nests were dealt with either by the use of cyanide or liquid insecticide. This is a noticeable reduction on previous years.

When certain infectious diseases occur (e.g. Smallpox, Tuberculosis) rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde and the bedding removed for steam sterilisation to St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.

The number of rooms so fumigated was 2. In no case was bedding removed.

The department also assists members of the public in the clearing of blocked drains to private houses in cases where this can be done without detriment to normal duties. A charge of ten shillings is made for this service. This work is carried out by the Rodent Staff and it is very necessary that the important work of rodent destruction is not hindered by too many extraneous duties.

Experience has shown that members of the public (particularly owner-occupiers) seem to think that it is part of the duties of the Council to clear private drains and furthermore, free-of-charge. It should be emphasised that the local authority have no such duty and that the legal obligation rests with the owner or occupier of the premises concerned.

During weekends and public holidays an arrangement exists with the Engineer and Surveyor whereby the sewer staff deal with blocked drains.

In the year 1968, drains were cleared by the Public Health staff in 152 instances and tested on 34 occasions.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations. Private dwellinghouses are treated without cost but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. Estimates are not given unless requested, owing to

the difficulty of determining how many visits are likely to be made before the premises are cleared.

Treatments are carried out at sewage works, refuse tips and to the Council's sewers.

Warfarin is used in connection with all premises and fluoro-acetamide for the treatment of sewers.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	22	611	116	749
(b) Survey under the Act ...	23	2	17	42
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—
2. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	2	—	2	4
} Minor ...	24	405	62	491
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	—	—
} Minor ...	2	164	53	219
3. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments ...	26	593	95	714

The Council fully realise the importance of rodent control and the staff consists of three, each of whom is provided with a vehicle.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964, came into operation on 1st April, 1965, and requires all scrap metal dealers to be registered with the local authority.

The number of dealers now registered is 28.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 6.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The authority for the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950—the Essex County Council—have delegated to the Council their functions regarding the licensing of boiling plants for animal feeding stuffs.

The importance of adequate boiling of waste food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised for it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

The number of plants licensed during the year was 16.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

This Act requires establishments used for the boarding of cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Council appointed two qualified Veterinary Officers on a part-time basis to make periodic inspections of all establishments and to submit a report prior to applications for licences being considered. In addition routine inspections are made during the year. One Veterinary Officer retired during the year and this work is now carried out by the remaining officer.

During 1968, 5 establishments were licensed by the Council.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964.

This Act requires Riding Establishments to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Veterinary Officers dealing with Animal Boarding Establishments have been appointed for the purpose of the inspection and licensing of these establishments.

During 1968, 3 establishments were licensed by the Council.

NIGHTDRESSES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

These Regulations were made under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, and require that children's nightdresses shall be made of material which complies with the low flammability requirements specified in the Regulations and that adult nightdresses, if made of inflammable material, shall be labelled.

A list of authorised laboratories has been published to whom samples may be sent by the local authority.

During the year 1 sample was taken, which satisfied the prescribed test.

The operation of these regulations is proving to be difficult since it has become almost impossible to purchase children's nightdresses made of any material other than nylon and this complies with the regulations.

TOYS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 1967.

These were also made under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, and came into operation on 1st November, 1967. They prescribe the amount of lead and other toxic metals which may be present in the paint on such toys.

During the year seven samples were taken, six of which proved satisfactory. The paint on the remaining toy contained 24,000 parts per million of lead which is almost five times the permitted amount. This toy was a "police van" manufactured in Hong Kong and both the retailer and importer were advised and the remaining stocks withdrawn. The circumstances were reported to the Home Office.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

A great deal can be done to obviate complaints of nuisance from noise at the planning stage of new buildings and the co-operation of the planning and building inspectors' sections of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department is much appreciated in this respect.

The principal complaints during the year were in respect of:—

- (1) Pile driving on Tilbury Dock Extension.
- (2) Pile driving on Derby Road Bridge Construction.
- (3) Go-Kart Track at Tilbury.
- (4) Motor Cycle Track at Linford.
- (5) Amplifiers of a "beat" group in a restaurant.
- (6) Panel beating in a garage.
- (7) Loading of gas containers on to lorries.

The problem of pile driving in this area is an insoluble one as the soil in which this work is done is not suitable for pressure pile driving, which is a less noisy process.

Impact pile driving has to be used and I am not aware of a satisfactory method of silencing the noise from this type of pile driver.

Go-Kart and motor cycle racing are both similar types of problem. Some small relief can be achieved by silencing the machines. However, even machines equipped with regulation silencers are capable of producing noise at nuisance level.

Baffle walls are of limited use and the discontinuance of the activity is the only guarantee of freedom from complaint.

A similar comment is applicable in the case of panel beating close to residential property and to the loading of gas containers. Fortunately, at least, in the case of the motor cycle track the acquisition of the land by the Council solved the problem.

The obvious solution to noise from "pop" groups using amplifiers is to reduce the volume and this was done in the case quoted.

An unusual complaint of noise from a macaw owned by a private householder involved the investigating inspector in many visits during which he heard only "four squawks." It may well have been that the bird had given longer and louder recitals in the absence of the inspector.

This particular type of complaint is an example of cases where only the complainant can verify that a nuisance exists and is remediable only by private action.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA						VISITS
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	1,100
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	23
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	540
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	52
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1,818
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	4,199
Factories (Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	284
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	244
Food Preparation Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	354
Food Shops Inspection (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	969
Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	46
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	30

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA						VISITS
Improvement Areas (Compulsory)	...	...				952
Improvement Grants (Standard)	...	...	...			486
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	...	...	...			110
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	435
Licensed Premises (Hygiene)	...	...	...	...	...	130
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2,036
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	507
Noise	...	...	...	...	...	199
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	26
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act:						
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	113
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	769
Wholesale Premises and Warehouses	...					5
Catering Establishments	...	...	...			105
Staff Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pet Animals, Boarding and Riding Establishments						47
Rat Suppression	...	...	...	...	...	196
Refuse Tips and Accumulations	...	...	...			899
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sampling: Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	328
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	168
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	309
Swimming Bath	...	...	...	...	...	57
Mains Water	...	...	...	...	...	24
Well Water	...	...	...	...	...	14
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	82
Shops Act, 1950 (Records and Hours)	...	...				202
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	13
Smoke Control	...	...	...	...	...	1,262
Stables: Pigsties	...	...	...	...	...	12
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	109
Waste Food Order	...	...	...	...	...	35
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	70
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	79
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	2
Toy Samples	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nightdress Samples	...	...	...	...	...	3

HEALTH EDUCATION.

I regret to report that another year has passed without success in resuscitating the course on food hygiene for food handlers at the Thurrock Technical College. It is discouraging that food handlers do not avail themselves of the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the principles of food hygiene. The legislation lays down requirements which are based on what is necessary to prevent the spread of infection but in the end, the responsibility for continuous hygienic practice in food premises lies with the individual employee. A public health inspector does not measure his success by the number of wash-hand basins he has had installed but on the number of food handlers who know why those facilities are necessary. An elementary knowledge of the bacteria which cause disease and the measures available to prevent their multiplication leads to a better understanding of the need for food hygiene and the voluntary practice of hygienic methods.

It is hoped that a course for catering students at the Thurrock Technical College will be organised in 1969. The incorporation of food hygiene instruction in the studies of catering students should prove invaluable. They will then know basic hygienic principles at the beginning of their careers which should stay with them throughout their working lives.

Talks on other aspects of public health have been given to schools and various organisations in the area.

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year: —

By local authority	...	...	...	...	428
By other local Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	799

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,981
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	4,299
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations	954
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	1,641
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas)	37
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	471

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their Officers	247
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) *Housing Act, 1957—Section 9* 1

(B) *Public Health Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied 49

(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices
(a) By owners 48

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil

(C) *Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 20

(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 15
In addition 2 houses were demolished by informal action.

(iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted Nil

(iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted 1

(D) *Sections 17 and 18, Housing Act, 1957.*

(i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 7

(ii) Number of houses closed 7

(iii) Parts of building closed Nil

(iv) Closing Orders Determined 1

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Housing Act, 1957—Section 42.

During the year 5 Clearance Areas—involving 40 houses—were declared. This was followed by 4 Clearance Orders and 1

Compulsory Purchase Order. In a further instance an Undertaking was given to the effect that a row of four cottages would be demolished after rehousing of the tenants.

In the 5 cases mentioned, the Orders were subsequently confirmed, together with a Compulsory Purchase Order made in 1967.

The properties in six Clearance Areas—two in Orsett, three in Grays and one in Aveley—involving 43 houses were demolished and the sites cleared, the occupants having been rehoused.

The current five-year programme of slum clearance expires on 31st December, 1969, and during this period the Council hoped to deal with 150 houses. After only four years, 220 houses have been dealt with and the Council have decided to accelerate the programme. A further 60 houses will, it is hoped, be dealt with during the years 1969/70.

It is envisaged that a further 250 houses remain to be dealt with within five years, but these are situated in areas of proposed redevelopment and will involve Compulsory Purchase procedure and the issue of Unfitness Orders.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The work during the year under this heading is summarised as follows:—

No. of applications received:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ...	...	...	...	17
(b) For Standard Grants ...	...	...	...	133

No. of applications granted:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ...	...	...	...	11
(b) For Standard Grants ...	...	...	...	111

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

A further three Areas were declared Improvement Areas during the year and involved a total of 661 dwellings, 277 of which were in need of improvement and 111 being occupied by tenants. During the same period 18 applications under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964, were received from tenants.

The position at the end of 1968 can be summed up in the following table.—

Improvement Area	TOTAL NUMBER OF DWELLINGS		COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT (Tenanted Property)						VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT (Owner/Occupied Property)
	Fully Improved	Needing Improvement	No. of Suspended Notices Served	No. of Immediate Improvement Notices Served	No. of Final Improvement Notices Served	Purchase Notices	No. of Undertakings Given	Dwellings Improved Since Area Declared	
No. 1	127	143	23	32	Nil	14	3	17	11
No. 2	3	35	12	23	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	—
No. 3	239	90	5	12	Nil	1	Nil	1	2
No. 4	7	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	Informal Undertaken Given	Nil	—
No. 5	138	175	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS	—	23	Not Applicable	16	Not Applicable	3	1	7	—

Two adjacent houses in Thurrock's first Improvement Area were purchased by the Council by agreement for the purpose of improvement, and subsequently opened to the public as part of a campaign designed to publicise the benefits of improving older dwellings and the grant assistance available. One of these houses was improved by means of a third bedroom conversion into a bathroom attracting a Standard Grant; the other property was improved with the aid of a Discretionary Grant and a bathroom provided by means of an extension. Other works were carried out to bring the property up to the twelve-point standard, some of which were grant assisted. The interest was sought, and obtained, from local industry and the Gas, Electricity and Coal Boards.

The dwelling improved to the Discretionary Grant Standard was fitted out and installed with central heating by the National Coal Board, free-of-charge to the Council. The other dwelling was equipped by the Gas Board. Local Oil Industries installed a marquee in the rear garden of the properties and exhibited oil-fired central heating equipment.

The exhibition was well publicised both in the local press and by leaflet distribution and proved reasonably successful, a considerable number having visited the properties during the 2½ weeks the exhibition was open. There is no doubt that the increase in the number of grant applications consisted of private tenants' applications for a bathroom under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1964, and was a direct result of the exhibition.

The formal procedures laid down in the Housing Act, 1964, in respect of compulsory improvement are cumbersome and time consuming. Nevertheless many of the initial problems have been overcome and a comparatively straightforward procedure is now followed.

In my view improvement of dwellings involves not only the provision of a bathroom but also the repair of the property to a reasonable standard and although the law concerning the repair of houses has its limitations, it has been the policy of the department to ensure a good standard of repair in accordance with the Housing Act, 1957 in those instances where tenants consent to improvement work. Where tenants do not consent, repairs are confined to those items causing concern to the occupants, and to external repairs.

It is emphasised that the number of tenants not consenting to improvements is considerable. This principally concerns elderly persons and their reluctance to being disturbed is understandable.

At the end of the five years' suspended period the department and the Council will need to give much thought and consideration to the question of Final Improvement Notices, as this would involve

the possible rehousing of tenants and the enforcement of improvement works against the tenant's wishes.

During the year the Government published a White Paper entitled "Old Houses into New Homes" which envisages introduction of new legislation next year giving wider emphasis to the preservation of the older, but substantially sound house, with simplified procedures. The White Paper also proposes increased grants for improvements and changes in the rent structure.

Clearly the Public Health Inspector must play an increasingly prominent role in the struggle to provide the community with decent housing accommodation..

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act has been in operation some 11½ years and permits, with few exceptions, rents to be increased automatically, subject to the tenant's right to object by the service of a notice on the landlord listing those defects of repair which he considers should be remedied. During the year one application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received and this was granted.

Details of its administration are as follows:—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Application received	68	56	15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Applications rejected	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Undertakings												
accepted	40	48	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Certificates of												
Disrepair issued	10	26	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Applications for												
Cancellations issued	8	3	1	—	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
Refusals to												
Cancel Certificates	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year 89 rooms were disinfested for vermin, i.e., fleas, bugs and cockroaches.

In addition, 14 other disinfestations were carried out involving mosquitoes, bees, maggots, etc.

Such disinfestations are usually carried out by the use of a liquid insecticide with a residual effect or by the use of insecticidal powder. A charge of 10/6d. per room is made.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 26 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned were applicants for a Council house an allowance can be made in the "Points" Scheme.

In this connection a greater degree of priority is given to those cases in which overcrowding arises from natural increase in the family.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

Many of the older houses in Thurrock are let as flats, i.e., ground floor and first floor and these are separate tenancies. They are not regarded as houses in multiple occupation but as two separate dwellings. Nor are houses which receive persons for board and lodging, since these would be classed as "boarding houses."

A multiple occupied house is one which was originally intended as one house but is occupied by more than one family (not being sub-tenants) or in which rooms are let off to individuals who fend for themselves.

The type of house used for this purpose is commonly one with three floors and fortunately a negligible number of these exist in Thurrock.

There is no reason to suppose that multi-occupation is a serious problem in this area and doubtless such cases include a number of instances in which married children are living with parents.

The problem of immigrant families is occasionally brought to the notice of the department and statements are made to the effect that innumerable individuals occupy a particular house. This is extremely difficult to verify especially where shift-workers are involved and one is sometimes reduced to counting the number of beds, or bunks, in an endeavour to assess the probable number of persons sleeping there.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On one occasion during the year under review it was found necessary to employ Council vehicles on removing caravans from an unauthorised site. This work becomes more difficult and unpleasant as the gipsies or "travellers" become more resentful at the fact that their hopes for the provision of sites are not being fulfilled.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government's survey on Gipsies and Other Travellers, coupled with the efforts of Eric Lubbock, M.P., resulted in the Caravan Act, 1968. This legislation became law in August this year but it was born without teeth. The date of operation of Part II of the Act, requiring local authorities to provide sites for gipsies, has been deferred. At the same time the Ministry emphasises that gipsies should not be needlessly moved on from place to place until sites have been provided for them. The public health inspector is now placed in an invidious position. If "a blind eye" is turned to unauthorised occupation of sites this

soon becomes known among the fraternity and before long more caravans arrive and the authority has an uncontrolled site of unmanageable proportions.

Until the remainder of the new Act becomes operative, no improvement can be expected—indeed the situation could become worse and it is hoped that the Minister will not delay any longer than is absolutely necessary.

I reported last year that the unauthorised caravan site at West Thurrock is in process of being run down over the next two years.

There are now some 34 caravans remaining and I do not expect any appreciable reduction in this figure.

The Council are engaged in the preparation of a site for 72 caravans at Aveley, the primary object of which is to provide accommodation for those caravans at West Thurrock, those on an unauthorised site at East Tilbury, together with any industrial workers coming into the area and who are engaged on contract work.

The position in Thurrock regarding properly licensed sites is as follows:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (2) Total number of licensed sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |

Of the four licensed sites, two are in respect of one caravan only. The remainder comprise the caravan site at Corringham and a site for 12 caravans in Tilbury for the use of workers engaged on the Tilbury Docks Extension.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 1,843 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt.

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	16	20	10	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	351	284	11	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	367	304	21	—

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	6	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventillation (S.4) ...	2	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	11	3	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	2	—	—	—	—
Total ...	21	5	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS.

There are two employers of outworkers as defined in Sections 110 and 111 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 180.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS AND OFFICES

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Act, 1950.

Shops (Early Closing) Days Act, 1965.

Young Persons (Employment) Acts, 1938-64.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

CLOSING ORDERS.

- (1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m.
Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 9 p.m.

Art needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gentlemen's Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

- (2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.
Tobacconists — Weekdays, 9.30 p.m. Saturday, 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).

Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.

SHOPS ACTS, 1950—1965.

Some 202 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 12 written notices, made up as follows:—

REQUIREMENTS	No. OF INSTANCES
Provision and exhibition of Forms ...	1
Display notice regarding Half Holidays ...	5
Display notice "Record of Hours Worked"	2
Display notice "Abstract of the Shops Act"	2
Excessive Hours for Young Persons ...	1
Excessive Sunday Employment ...	1

Complaints and enquiries have been very few during the year but a pamphlet is available to any shopkeeper who is in need of advice on such matters as closing hours.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act came on to the Statute Book on 31st July, 1963. Its object is to ensure that the working conditions in shops and offices are not less favourable than those in factories—in other words it is designed to cater for the “white collar” worker. The Act follows the lines of the Factories Act and lays down requirements regarding registration of premises, health, welfare and safety conditions.

The Minister of Labour is empowered to make regulations regarding registration of premises, provision of first aid equipment, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and facilities for the drying of clothing.

To date the principal Orders are as follows and come into operation on the dates mentioned:—

May 1st, 1964 and August 1st, 1964—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Forms Order, 1964.

May 1st, 1964—Registration of all premises before 31st July, 1964.

August 1st, 1964—Prescribed Dangerous Machines Order, 1964.

August 1st, 1964—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No. 1) Order, 1964.

December 1st, 1964 and September 1st, 1965—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises First Aid Order, 1964.

January 1st, 1966—Sanitary Conveniences Regulations, 1964.

January 1st, 1966—Washing Facilities Regulations, 1964.

August 3rd, 1966—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No. 4) Order, 1966.

January 1st, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No. 7) Order, 1968.

May 28th, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Hoists and Lifts)) Regulations, 1968

May 28th, 1969—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Hoists and Lifts) Reports Order, 1968.

The provisions regarding overcrowding came into operation on August 1st, 1967.

Registrations and General Inspections:

Premises	Registra- tions dur- ing 1968	Total No. of Registered Premises	First Inspect'ns in 1968
Offices	10	164	61
Retail Shops	33	555	234
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ...	1	11	2
Catering Establishments & Canteens	3	91	50
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	1

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 1,026.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Premises	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	3,138
Retail Shops	2,968
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses ...	145
Catering Establishments	612
Canteens	229
Fuel Storage Depots	9
	<hr/>
TOTAL	7,101
	<hr/>
Males	3,356
Females	3,745

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section	Number of Contraventions Found
4 Cleanliness	—
5 Overcrowding	—
6 Temperature	15
7 Ventilation	4
8 Lighting	4
9 Sanitary Conveniences	26
10 Washing facilities	22
11 Supply of drinking water	—
12 Clothing accommodation	—
13 Sitting facilities	—
14 Seats (Sedentary Workers)	—
15 Eating facilities	—
16 Floors, passage and stairs	25
17 Fencing of exposed parts of machinery	—
18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	—

Section	Number of Contraventions Found					
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	...	...	...	...	—
23	Prohibition of heavy work	...	...	...	...	—
24	First Aid	...	...	...	...	25
	Other matters	...	...	...	...	34
					TOTAL	125

Exemptions.

No applications for exemptions were made during the year.

Regulations.

Regulations regarding lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and facilities for the drying of clothing have not yet been made by the Minister but a circular has been issued which gives guidance to local authorities for the purpose of enforcing Section 8 relating to lighting.

Accidents.

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

(a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises

or

(b) disables any such person for more than three days.

During the year 24 accidents were notified (only two of which concerned offices)—a reduction of 13 on the previous year and indeed the lowest since 1964. Whether this indicates a real decrease or merely an increased failure to notify, is open to question.

Most of the accidents were of a minor nature and in no case were legal proceedings considered to be justified. The situation was dealt with by means of interviews and letters.

The majority of these accidents arose from falls, striking against objects and persons being struck by falling objects.

The single accident under the heading of "Burns" occurred in the staff room of a shop where an assistant knocked over a saucepan of boiling water.

In the case of the accident under the heading "Fire and explosion" one of the staff in the kitchen of a public house caused a minor explosion when igniting a gas cooker and suffered from shock.

It is gratifying to note that in only two cases were accidents caused by machinery. These involved a slicing machine and a food mixer. Investigation revealed that the machines conformed with requirements regarding guards and that the accidents were the result of improper use.

REPORTED ACCIDENTS, 1968

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Primary cause	Nature of Injury										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
		Fractures and Dislocations	Sprains and Strains	Internal Injury	Amputations	Open Wounds and Surface Injury	Bruising, Crushing and Concussion	Burns	Multiple Injuries of a Different Nature	Other Injuries	TOTAL
Machinery (power and non-power)	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Transport	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falls of Persons	...	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Stepping on or striking against object or person	...	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
Handling goods (not otherwise specified)	...	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	6
Struck by falling object	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Fires and explosions...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Due to electricity	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Use of hand tools	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Not otherwise specified	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	...	4	4	—	—	6	6	1	—	3	24

Notices Served.

Details of requirements made under the Act during the year are as follows:—

Requirement	Number
Provide first aid box	25
Provide thermometer	13
Provide adequate sanitary accommodation ...	1
Mark sanitary accommodation for sexes ...	4
Provide hand washing facilities	22
Provide adequate ventilation	4
Provide adequate lighting to work areas ...	4
Provide adequate means of heating	2
Cleanse and/or repair floors	12
Cleanse and/or redecorate W.C.	19
Provide intervening ventilated space to W.C. ...	1
Renew window	2
Register premises	8
Provide copy of "Abstract of the Act"	21
Remove obstructions	13
Remove accumulations of refuse	3

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 13 registered dairies, and licences for the sale of designated milk have also been issued in respect of 140 shop premises.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960-63.

Number of licences in force: —

(a) Dealer's (Prepacked) for Untreated Milk	13
(b) „ „ „ Pasteurised Milk	93
(c) „ „ „ Sterilised Milk	114
(d) „ „ „ Ultra Heat Treated Milk	8
(e) Dealer's (Pasteuriser's)	1
(f) Dealer's (Untreated)	Nil

Pasteurising Plants.

Early in the year the one processing and bottling plant in the area closed down. In view of this the Public Health Laboratory Service suggested that no milk samples need be sampled in this area, since samples of each processor would be taken in other parts of the county. However, this suggestion was resisted and a compromise was reached whereby this department takes one weekly sample of each processors' milk retailed in the area. This amounts to about 4 samples a week, which is a considerable reduction on previous practice.

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Bacteriological.*

The following tables show the number of samples taken and the results obtained: —

GRADE	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Void	Failed
Pasteurised	193	193	—	189	1	3

It is to be noted that, of the 193 samples of designated milk taken 3 failed the methylene test.

Milk Samples which failed the appropriate tests during 1968

Failure	Designation	Samples from	
	Pasteurised	Plants within the area	Plants outside the area
Methylene Blue Test	3	—	3

Enquiries were made following the three unsatisfactory samples but no conclusive evidence as to the cause was revealed. The milk came from premises outside the area.

(b) Biological.

There are 13 milk-producing farms in the area and every effort is made to sample the milk from each farm twice yearly. During the year 40 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus.

Four of these samples were reported to be affected with *Brucella Abortus*. This led to the taking of a further 62 samples from individual cows and of this number 10 were shown to be positive.

The sale of milk from these animals was therefore prohibited unless pasteurised before use.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area and they are in regular use. The Construction Regulations apply to both these premises.

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE (HYGIENE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1966.

These Regulations came into operation on 1st February, 1967, prohibit the use of wiping cloths after the 1st November, 1968.

It is the opinion of public health inspectors that the only alternative to wiping cloths is a proper type of water spray. These have been installed at both the slaughterhouses in the area.

It is claimed by the meat trade that the use of water sprays causes rancidity in the fat, particularly round the kidney of beef animals but no concrete evidence of this has been produced. Some spotting of the outside of sheep carcasses was found in one of the slaughterhouses but was overcome by using disposable paper towels. Provided only one is used for each carcass there is no contravention of the Regulation. Since the intention behind the Regulation is to prevent cross contamination no valid objection can be raised against this practice.

KNACKERS' YARDS.

There are no licensed Knackers' Yards in the area.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	}	2382	2	11	5258	4018	—
Number inspected							
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned		—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		364	—	—	257	322	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci		15.25	—	—	4.89	8.01	—
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned		—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		—	—	—	—	55	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis		—	—	—	—	1.39	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		21	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration ...		21	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned		—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Cysticercosis		0.88	—	—	—	—	—

It will be noted that the total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 11,671 a slight decrease from 1967, due mainly to a decrease in the number of sheep killed.

It is pleasing to record that every animal slaughtered has been inspected, although this involves weekend duty by Public Health Inspectors.

The amount of tuberculosis found in bovines is now utterly negligible and where this is found, the circumstances are reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No instances came to light during 1968.

The incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* shows a slight increase on last year.

With the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all carcasses are now stamped by the Inspector and the Council have continued the principle of making no charge for this service.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The weight of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses during the year amounts to 7,523 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1966.

The control of the hours of slaughter which was instigated in 1966 by the Council has proved a satisfactory arrangement.

Both slaughterhouses are limited to not more than 10 hours slaughtering up to 6 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays and the slaughterhouse in West Thurrock is allowed up to 12 noon on Saturdays in addition.

These limitations are relaxed during the 21 days before Christmas Day and in the case of emergency slaughter.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen is kept in accordance with the above Act and the number so licensed is 6.

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED.

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
1,728 Tins Fruit	16	6	3
296 „ Meat	4	3	7
1,351 „ Vegetables	8	1	20
47 „ Soup	—	1	9
173 „ Fish	—	3	18
75 „ Milk Pudding	—	2	2
50 „ Fruit Juice	—	2	—

Commodity	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
85 tins Milk	—	2	—
33 „ Rice Pudding	—	—	25
48 „ Tomato Juice	—	1	18
52 „ Tomatoes	—	1	21
43 „ Gherkins	—	1	25
10 „ Preserves	—	—	10
Imported Beef Kidney	—	—	26
Imported Ox Livers	1	—	8
Chickens	—	1	20
Beef	4	3	19
Mutton	—	4	4
Pork	1	—	9
Veal	—	—	15
Fish	—	—	18
Table Jellies	—	—	8
Crispbread	—	—	3
Butter	—	1	1
500 Packets Cereals, Biscuits, etc.			
10 Packets Nut Chocolate			
4,874 Packets Frozen Foods			
1,211 Bottles Wines, Spirits, etc.			
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TOTAL	44	2	9
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The large amount of frozen foods arises from refrigerator breakdowns at Supermarkets whilst the packets of cereals and bottles of alcoholic beverages were damaged by flood water during the heavy September rains.

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

158 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I 	131
Grade II 	18
Grade III 	8
Grade IV 	1

10 ice lolly samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below:—

Producer	Total Samples	I	II	III	IV
A	67	62	4	1	—
B	63	56	5	2	—
*C	15	9	3	3	—
*D	2	1	—	1	—
*E	3	1	2	—	—
F	1	—	—	1	—
G	1	—	1	—	—
H	4	2	2	—	—
I	2	—	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	158	131	18	8	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Producers C, D and E are situated within the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail ice-cream within the district.

20 samples were taken from the producers within the area and the results were as follows:

The 15 samples from Thurrock producer “C” came within the following categories:

Percentage of Grade I samples	...	60%
„ „ Grade I and II samples...		80%
„ „ Grade III samples	...	20%
„ „ Grade IV samples	...	Nil

The 2 samples from Thurrock producer “D” came within the following categories:

Percentage of Grade I samples	...	50%
„ „ Grade I and II samples...		50%
„ „ Grade III samples	...	50%
„ „ Grade IV samples	...	Nil

The 3 samples from Thurrock producer “E” came within the following categories:

Percentage of Grade I samples	...	33.3%
„ „ Grade I and II samples...		100%
„ „ Grade III Samples	...	Nil
„ „ Grade IV Samples	...	Nil

There is a reduction in the total number of samples of ice-cream taken in the area during the year. This arises from a change in the system of routine sampling. Hitherto samples were taken by every district inspector on the routine sampling day and a great deal of duplication of samples from the same producer was occurring. By the new method only one inspector does the sampling on each occasion over the whole area.

The results obtained from the samples taken during the year reveal a standard of hygiene in production which is most satisfactory.

There has been an improvement in the results from local producers. Only one sample was classed as Grade IV and this was obtained from ice-cream produced outside the area. The matter was referred to the appropriate local authority who had been experiencing difficulties with unsatisfactory ice-cream due to a particular mix. The matter was pursued by that authority's public health inspector.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

During 1968 a total of 1,693 visits and revisits were made to food shops, cafes, school and factory canteens.

Details of requirements made under the Regulations are as follows: —

REQUIREMENTS						NUMBER
Repair and/or redecorate walls/ceiling	...	...	...	...	...	64
Cleanse or renew equipment	...	...	...	...	...	12
Provide suitably covered refuse containers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Protect food and containers from risk of contamination	...	...	...	...	...	9
Display "Wash Your Hands" Notices	...	...	...	...	...	14
Repair shop floor covering	...	...	...	...	...	15
Provide accommodation for outdoor clothing	...	...	...	...	...	5
Provide suitable storage facilities	...	...	...	...	...	7
Re-position hot water urns	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provide soap, towels and nailbrushes	...	...	...	...	...	5
Provide sinks	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repair doors	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repair/Renew wall tiles	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repair roofs	...	...	...	...	...	1

TRADE	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Butchers	79	79	79	79
Grocery & Provision Merchants	109	109	109	107
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	64	64	64	64
Fishmongers (inc. Fish Fryers)	32	32	32	32
Sugar Confectionery	83	83	83	83
Flour Confectionery	32	32	32	32
Bakehouses	10	10	10	10
Cafes & Restaurants	53	53	53	52
Works Canteens	75	75	75	75
School Canteens	57	57	57	57
Licensed Premises	79	79	79	79
Clubs	54	54	54	54
Dairies	1	1	1	1
General Stores (inc. Supermarkets)	38	38	38	38

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

The records show that there were 344 premises registered for the manufacture or preservation of food, or sale of ice-cream at the year's end.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

34 complaints were received during the year.

Among the subjects of complaint were mouldy sausage rolls and sausages. Other matters investigated were maggots in chocolate roll and bacon, alleged unfitness of turkey, tinned carrots and corned beef.

Nowadays the public are more ready to complain about the food they buy, and I would welcome this tendency with the reservation that the complaints should be confined to matters which are worthy of comment. This is not always the case and in ten of the cases reported, on investigation they were found to be such as not to warrant action by this department.

Legal proceedings were taken in one case and judgment was in the Council's favour. The subject of complaint was a starch reduced Crispbread containing insects. Formal warning letters were sent in other cases.

Seven complaints were received regarding the improper cleansing milk bottles. Warning letters were sent in three cases where the circumstances did not warrant prosecution. The remaining four were referred to the local authorities in which the milk was processed and bottled. Those authorities instituted legal proceedings and convictions were obtained in all cases.

The problem of dirty bottles will always be with us. When one considers the number of bottles of milk produced annually the dairy industry is to be complimented on the small number of dirty milk bottles. However, the occasional dirty bottle is sold and the final solution is the use of disposable containers.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

No egg pasteurisation plants exist in the area.

THE IMPORTED FOOD REGULATIONS, 1968.

These Regulations came into force on the 1st August, 1968. Their principal effect is to enable port health inspectors to defer examination of food until it arrives at a specified inland authority. This means that inland authority inspectors may now be involved in the inspection of imported food which until now has been done entirely by port health inspectors.

The change in the procedure has been made necessary by the increase in the use of containers for shipping. These containers hold as much as 20 tons and are unloaded straight from ships on to lorries or trains and can then be transported to inland container bases where the contents are unloaded and grouped for their various destinations throughout the country.

The construction of such a container base was begun at Orsett during the year and it is expected to be in operation during March, 1969. It will be receiving goods mainly from Australia but some traffic is expected from European ports. When the base becomes operational it will be necessary to employ the services of a public health inspector for the inspection of imported food. The duties will involve the inspection of all food in containers, detention of food suspected of being unfit or containing prohibited colouring matter, preservative, etc., and the implementation of health regulations pertaining to container traffic.

The Council have approved the appointment of a Senior Public Health Inspector for this purpose and he will take up his duties when the volume of work is sufficient.

Report of the Public Analyst

During the year 1968, 345 articles of food and drugs were examined. Of these, 73 were taken formally, 264 informally, and 8 were submitted as complaints.

The number adulterated or about which some adverse comment was made was 18. The incidence of these criticisms may be classified as follows:—

		<i>Number of samples examined</i>	<i>Number of samples adulterated, etc.</i>
Milk	...	49	2
Other Foods	...	252	15
Drugs	...	44	1

Two samples of milk were unsatisfactory. One contained only 2.79 per cent of fat and was, therefore, 7 per cent deficient, based on the fact that it contained less than 3 per cent of fat according to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, whilst the other contained only 1.80 per cent of fat and was therefore 40 per cent deficient. A concentrated liquid milk was found to be very slightly curdled on receipt in June, but as the expiry date was given as January, 1968, this was obviously old stock.

A sterilised cream contained solids not fat 6.50 per cent, which calculated on the original milk gave 8.2 per cent, indicating that the cream had been separated at a higher fat level than necessary and diluted with water. It is illegal to add water to cream. Another canned cream showed an illustration of a bowl of fruit salad with strawberries and cream when the fruits were not present in the can. The report of the Food Standards Committee stated that objection would not be taken to an illustration showing cream or sauce being poured on to fruit, but they objected to an illustration of the fruit with cream or sauce on it.

The illustration on three cans of corned beef were reported as misleading, one showed tomato and parsley, another parsley, and the third lettuce and radishes, none of which were present in the cans. These labels showed illustrations which again the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had condemned in its report on misleading labels.

The interior of the can of some corned beef was badly corroded and two pieces of the stained meat contained respectively 1150 and 156 parts per million of tin.

Several other samples of corned beef were submitted and these were compared with various private samples and the results collated with those of the analysis of earlier samples received since the Ministry's proposals for canned meats were first made. The results showed that several brands, which are not well recognised, are definitely lower in their meat content and if this is allowed to continue it will force the better known brands to follow suit.

Some sausages were mouldy. They had been sold within 6 days of manufacture, and if kept in a refrigerated show-case over the weekend as stated, the light must have been left on so that it shone on to the sausages and the heat would have encouraged the growth of the mould.

The foreign matter on slices of bacon consisted of a small piece of bacon badly contaminated with lubricating oil and iron oxides, i.e., rust. It was thought possible that a small piece of bacon had been caught in the inner part of the machine where it had absorbed lubricating oil and iron.

Three complaints were received regarding bread. A brown discoloration in one was due to a piece of brown dough being twisted into the white dough when forming the loaf, in another loaf, the discoloured particles were due to the mixture of whole-meal flour with white flour, and there were also green streaks due to the presence of traces of copper, whilst the third loaf showed dark streaks due to the presence of gear oil contaminated with iron. Greater care was necessary in all three bakeries concerned.

An orange barley water possessed an unpleasant odour and taste of washing up water, but was otherwise satisfactory. It was reported as inferior.

An off flavour was noticed in some salted peanuts, and the extracted fat showed a positive Kreis test, an acid value of 0.7 and a peroxide value of 47.3. This peroxide value was definitely high and the packer should have made better efforts to prevent this rancidity occurring.

A peel-less marmalade consisted of a mass of jelly floating in syrup, and was obviously old stock.

Other complaints were made regarding a pork pie, pork sausages, and sage and onion stuffing. The meat pie contained 27.6 per cent of meat which complies with the Meat Pie Regulations, and your analyst could detect no fault in either the sausages or the stuffing.

A herbal remedy listed the active ingredients from which it had been prepared and incorrectly described them as the formula of the medicine.

Seven toys were examined during the year to ensure that they complied with the Toys Safety Regulations, 1967. Six of these were examined for lead in the paint, and of these five were well within the required limits, but one of the toys was painted with different colours and of these the red paint contained 24,000 parts and the silver paint 1,460 parts per million of lead. The permitted maximum quantity is 5,000 parts per million. The seventh toy was a feeding bottle containing liquid, and examination proved this to be harmless.

Food Legislation in 1968

The Imported Food Regulations, 1968, came into operation on 1st August, 1968, replacing the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948. These regulations specify the authorities by whom they are to be enforced, usually the port health authority, and largely re-enact existing regulations. Essentially however, they have been issued in order to cope with container transport, by which sealed containers may be sent from an inland depot in one country to an inland centre in another without passing through an inspection at a port of entry.

An amendment to the Skimmed Milk with Non-Milk Fat Regulations came into force on the 26th September. This exempted certain foods from the requirement to bear on the label the declaration "Unfit for Babies," provided that they have been approved by the Minister.

The Fish and Meat Spreadable Products Regulations, 1968, will supersede the Food Standards (Fish Paste) Order, 1951, and the Food Standards (Meat Paste) Order, 1951, in March, 1971. They specify requirements for the description, composition, labelling and advertisement of meat paste and fish paste and prescribe improved definitions of products which are and have to be declared as pastes, pates, or spreads, though they also permit brawn to be manufactured as a spreadable product and this may lead to difficulties.

The Canned Meat Product (Amendment) Regulations, 1968, and the Sausage and Other Meat Product (Amendment) Regulations, 1969, modify the principal regulations for canned meat products by:—

(i) exempting canned sliced bacon from any requirement as to lean meat content.

(ii) setting a separate standard for the meat content of canned chopped or minced meat which is suitable for slicing,

(iii) restricting the use of the expression "ready meal" on the label of a canned meat product,

(iv) applying labelling requirements to canned meat products only when such products are in original containers and in the case of sausage products:—

(a) exempting a canned product after removal from its container, and

(b) restricting the use of the expression "ready meal" when used for a meat product.

The Ministry also issued a press release asking for comments on the Offals in Meat Products Order, 1963, and your analyst has

suggested that the inclusion of prohibited offals should either be forbidden in prepared foods or their presence disclosed to the purchaser.

The proposed Regulations on Cream make provision for the following descriptions of cream for sale to the public:—

	<i>Milk fat content</i>		
Clotted cream	55 per cent
Double cream	48 per cent
Whipped and Whipping cream	35 per cent
Sterilised cream	23 per cent
Sterilised half cream	12 per cent
Half cream	12 per cent

These proposals make no mention of the so called parts of milk rich in fat, which are being sold at the present time to evade the existing cream regulations, and unless some provision is made to prevent this, the regulations will be largely useless. It is also proposed to allow the addition of various substances to cream to stabilise it or to enable it to whip better, but the Food and Drugs Act, at the present time forbids the addition of any substance to cream. Similarly the Preservatives in Food Regulations forbid the addition of any thickening matter to cream.

A Food Standards Committee Report on Soups, was issued and its main recommendations were that:—

(a) Minimum meat contents should be laid down for soups and soup mixes containing meat, poultry and game, apart from clear meat soups or broths. Scotch broth should be regarded as a meat and vegetable soup and have a prescribed minimum meat content.

(b) Minimum tomato solids contents should be laid down for tomato soup and tomato soup mixes.

(c) Soups described as “cream of . . .” or “cream” should contain not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of butter fat if all the fat is butter fat, or not less than 1 per cent of butter fat with not less than 2 per cent of other fat, and soups described as “creamed” should contain a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent total fat.

(d) The use of the word “condensed” in relation to soups should be restricted to products to be diluted with at least an equal quantity of water.

A report on Further Classes of Food Additives issued by the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee divides various chemicals used in foods into classes and groups for the purpose of acting as buffers, humectants, sequestrants, propellents, glazing

agents, anti-foaming agents, anti-caking agents, release agents and firming or crisping agents. The classes of compounds are divided into two or more groups according to their recognition as harmless or otherwise. Taken in conjunction with recent regulations and other reports it is seen that we are rapidly following the American custom of issuing lists of permitted food additives. The Committee also issued a report on the use of Azodiacarbonamide in baking and indicated that the Committee is not yet satisfied that it is completely harmless.

Towards the end of the year the Food Standards Committee issued a Report on Jams and Other Preserves and made some 26 separate recommendations, the chief of which is that the basic fruit content of jams should be 40 per cent and that the fruit content of certain jams at present sold with lower fruit contents should be raised, though blackcurrant (30%), raspberry (35%), loganberry (35%), and redcurrant jelly (35%) would remain below the 40 per cent. Standards of 30 per cent would be introduced for cranberry, bilberry, or rowan jam. It is proposed that definitions should be laid down for jams, jelly, marmalade, and jelly marmalade and that allowance should be made for fruit curds other than orange and lemon, but no standards have been put forward for the minimum fruit content of these as flavouring agents. It is proposed that any jam in a "sealed" container need contain only 65 per cent of total dissolved solids, the limit at present permitted for jams in hermetically sealed containers, but there is no definition of what constitutes a "sealed" container. Provision has been made for the prohibition of the use of fruit residues from the manufacture of other fruit products, e.g., orange residues from the production of whole orange drinks.

The Food Standards Committee was asked to review the Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959, and among other points to consider the use of the word "evaporated" instead of "condensed"; whether "condensed milk" (half cream) should be described also as "partly skimmed"; whether it should be permissible to include a declaration of the fat content of condensed milk on the label as with dried milk; and whether such a declaration of fat content should be permissible instead of the use of the word "skimmed."

During the year the Ministry issued several Press Releases suggesting alterations or amendments to regulations. These asked for information regarding changes, which members of the public might wish to send to the Ministry or to the Food Standards Committee for consideration and included:—

The Food Standards (Baking Powder and Golden Raising Powder) Order, 1964.

The Food Standards (Tomato Ketchup) Order, 1949.

The Food Standards (Mustard) (No. 2) Order, 1951.

The Food Standards (Fish Cakes) Order, 1950.

The Food Standards (Curry Powder) Order, 1949.

The Food Standards (Suet) Order, 1952.

The Offals in Meat Products Order, 1953.

The Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953.

The Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.

The Bread and Flour Regulations, 1963.

The Food Standards (Self-Raising) Flour Order, 1946.

There is much to be said for reviewing all food standards every five years as has now become the custom both in Great Britain and in the United States with fresh pharmacopoeias with the issue of necessary addenda in between. The advantage of legislation by regulation rather than by Act of Parliament is that a regulation may be changed more readily, but, unfortunately, any proposed regulation is not subject to the same careful scrutiny before it becomes law. Many interested bodies such as the Food Manufacturers' Federation and the Association of Public Analysts endeavour to keep the Ministry informed of their views and your analyst has now been appointed the first Chairman of a Standards Committee of the Institute of Food Science and Technology in order to assist the Ministry with the most recent scientific and technological information available. Whilst it is often easy to criticise legislation once it has been promulgated it is not always possible to foresee the pitfalls in advance. Unfortunately, moreover, regulations are often worded by the Minister's legal advisers, who believe that they are interpreting the views of his technical advisers, but who themselves have no technical knowledge and do not send the final draft back to the technical advisers before submission to Parliament.

Another press release issued by the Ministry related to the use of cyclamates in food to inform the public that the Minister saw no reason to change legislation. Whether one agrees with this decision or not one cannot but sympathise with those, who have to advise Ministers regarding supplementary food constituents, in view of the conflicting opinions held in various countries about what are satisfactory and what are unsatisfactory food ingredients. The food of diabetics must be made attractive, our every day food must look and smell attractive and, above all, it is essential that it must keep satisfactorily with the longer storage conditions resulting from present day civilisation.

THOMAS McLACHLAN.

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Beverage, Chocolate	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bread	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3
Biscuits	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cakes	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cake Decorations	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
CEREALS								
Cornflour	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Flour, Plain	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Flour, Self-raising	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Cheese, Spread	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Coffee, Essence	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Coffee, Extract	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Confectionery	—	7	—	7	—	—	—	—
Cream	—	5	—	5	—	2	—	2
EDIBLE FATS								
Butter	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Cooking Fat	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Margarine	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
FISH PRODUCTS								
Bottled	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Frozen	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paste	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
FRUIT								
Canned	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dried	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Fresh	—	43	—	43	—	—	—	—
Gravy Mix	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Herbs, Bay Leaves	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Infant Food	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Jelly, Table	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Marzipan	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mayonnaise	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Carried Forward	—	124	3	127	—	2	3	5

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Brought Forward	—	124	3	127	—	2	3	5
MEAT PRODUCTS								
Bacon	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
Beefburgers	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Brawn	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	17	—	17	—	4	—	4
Faggot	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Frankfurters	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Frozen	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Liver Sausage	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paste	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pies	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Puddings	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Sausages	—	7	2	9	—	—	1	1
Suet	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Methyl Cellulose								
Granules	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
MILK								
Condensed	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Evaporated	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Fresh	49	—	—	49	2	—	—	2
Skim. Milk Powder	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	1
Nuts	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Peanut Butter	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pectin	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pie Filling, Fruit	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
PRESERVES								
Diabetic Marmallade	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Jams	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rissole Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Salads Dressings	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sauces	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Carried Forward	49	197	6	252	2	9	5	16

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Brought Forward	49	197	6	252	2	9	5	16
SOFT DRINKS								
Calcium Drink	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Low Calorie Apple Squash	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mineral Water	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Orange Drink	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Shandies	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
To Be Diluted	—	2	1	3	—	—	1	1
Soup, Dried	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Spice, Curry Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
SPIRITS								
Brandy	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Gin	7	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
Rum	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Whisky	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Stuffing	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Sweetener Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Syrup, Milk Shake	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tea, Iced Lemon Mix	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes, Fresh	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Tomato Juice	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
VEGETABLES								
Bottled	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canned	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Dried	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Wines, Sherry	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carried Forward	73	220	8	301	2	9	6	17

Article	Number samples examined				Number adulterated etc.			
	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total	Formal	Informal	Complaint	Total
Brought Forward	73	220	8	301	2	9	6	17
DRUGS								
Allergy Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Analgesic Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Aspirin	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Beechams Pills	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Blood Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Calcium Lactate	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cold Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cough Mixture and Linctus	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea Treatment	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Energy Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Foot Balm	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Herbal Remedy	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
Indigesiton Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Indigestion Tablets	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Influenza Essence	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Laxative Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mentholate Balsam	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mouth Ulcer Jelly	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Jel.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Tabs.	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—
Paracetamol Tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Stomach Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Throat Pastilles	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tonic Tablets	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Tranquillizer Tabs.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Travel Sickness Tablets	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Total	73	264	8	345	2	10	6	18

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Bread (2 Samples):	Warning letters to bakers.
Sausages:	Severe warning letter to retailers.
Bacon:	Warning letter to packers.
Tinned Cream:	Of foreign origin, matter of added water taken up by importers with the overseas packers.
S.M.A.:	Old stock, retailer warned regarding stock control.
White Bread:	Discoloration due to wholemeal flour. Manufacturers attention drawn to complaint.
Herbal Remedy:	Manufacturers to alter label.
Diabetic Peel-less Marmalade:	Remaining stock withdrawn from sale by retailer.
Pasteurised Milk:	The question of fat deficiency was taken up with the packers who stated that the mechanical failure of an agitator had resulted in some substandard milk being cartoned. The dairy manager had at the time withdrawn a quantity from distribution, but obviously some had slipped through. It has been suggested that an alarm system, to give instant warning of failure, should be attached to this and similar equipment.
Salted Peanuts:	Matter taken up with processors who arranged for inspection of all stocks and withdrawals of all old stock.
Orange Barley Water:	The Public Analyst's comments drawn to the attention of the manufacturers.
Corned Beef:	The department endeavoured to get in touch with the packers, through the importers, on the condition of this tin.
Milk:	Warning letter to retailer.
Corned Beef (3 Samples):	} Importers advised of Public Analyst's opinion but this is not considered to be a matter remediable under the Food and Drugs Act.
Cream:	

